

Monkton Church of England Primary School

Compassion

Courage

Justice

Jesus said, 'Go and do the same.'

October 2026—No 1



Dear Parents/Carers,

Can you believe the first term is nearly at an end? I've been so impressed with how the children have settled back into school life. Our Reception Class have settled in so well, it feels as though they've been with us for years already — and they've achieved so much in such a short time!

A heartfelt thank you to everyone in our school community for supporting the children's transition from summer lie-ins to early starts and school routines. Every day, as I walk through the school, I see, hear, and feel learning in action — and this term has been nothing short of *ambitious and inspirational*.

At the heart of our teaching is *Active Learning* — where children are constantly doing, exploring, and discovering, rather than just passively listening and recalling information. And I've certainly seen a lot of "doing"! From Stone Age cooking to Ancient Greek sculpting, from science experiments in Years 1 and 2 to building a church in Reception — the creativity, curiosity, and application skills on display have been truly impressive.

I'm also currently running tours for prospective families joining us in 2026, and I've been struck by how often parents comment on the unique vibe of our school. I couldn't agree more — it's something special, and something I haven't experienced in any other school I've worked in.

This term and next, we're also placing a strong focus on *child leadership*, giving children opportunities to flourish in roles of responsibility. These experiences are vital for nurturing teamwork, boosting confidence and self-esteem, and building independence. We're in the process of appointing new Christian Ambassadors, we have a fantastic team of House Captains who will help organise competitions and support school events, and we're establishing a School Council and seeking out our next generation of Eco-Heroes.

It's all very exciting, and I look forward to seeing how the children continue to grow and shine

Warm Regards

Chris Marston

Head of School

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 27th October First day of Term 2/Diwali Day

Tuesday 28th October, School Photographs

Friday 31st October, PTA Spooky Disco 3:15 to 4:30pm

Monday 3rd November, Staff Development Day—school closed to pupils

Friday 7th November, Opal Stay and Play 2:15pm to 3:15pm

Friday 14th November, Children in Need

Thursday 20th November, Class 4 trip British Museum

Friday 21st November, PTA non-uniform day—bring an item for the Xmas fair

Friday 5th December, PTA Christmas Fair 3pm to 4pm

Thursday 11th December, Christmas Jumper day/ PTA Film night

Friday 12th December, Yr R Nativity/ iRock concert

Tuesday 16th December, Christingle

Wednesday 17th December, Christmas Lunch/Open Afternoon

Thursday 18th December, Monkton's Got Talent/Last Day of Term



Please do check our website regularly as other events may get added.

<https://monkton.kent.sch.uk/calendar>

TERM 2 After School Clubs



Football Fun Factory will run every Monday from 27th October to 15th December 3:15pm to 4:15pm (no session 3rd November as Staff Development Day), sessions cost £5. The club is open to all year groups. Booking and payment must be made in advance via the Football Fun Factory website. Link will be sent out shortly.



Khickster Entertainment Please book using the Khickster Entertainment Website www.khicksterentertainment.co.uk/book using the password MONKTON.

Mr Marston will continue with the Choir Club every Monday from 27th October—no club 3rd November as school is closed to pupils. This club is available for pupils in Year 4, 5, 6.

Mr Sewell will be running a juggling and speed stacking club every Wednesday from 29th October to 17th December.

Breakfast Club

Just a reminder that children need to be booked onto breakfast club in advance. This ensures that we have sufficient staff and resources available each morning. You can find details of how to register and pay for your child on the school website <https://www.monkton.kent.sch.uk/breakfast-club>

Khickster Entertainment Wraparound Care Term 2

In Term 2 Khicksters will be providing the following clubs.

Tuesdays—Arts and Crafts

Wednesdays—Games night

Thursdays—Singing

Friday—Film night

Khickster Entertainment also a range of options for general wraparound care, you can find details of the different care options on their website.

Bookings must be made online at: www.khicksterentertainment.co.uk/book, using the password MONKTON.

These clubs are available to view and book on their website.

Kimberley would love to hear what clubs your children would like to attend, and will endeavour to make their wishes reality.

These are some of the activities children have been doing over this term.



Class News

What a fantastic start to the school year our newest children have made! Our Reception children have settled in beautifully and we are so proud of how confident and enthusiastic they've become. It's been wonderful to see everyone making new friends and learning through play every day.

This term, we've been out in all weathers, exploring the world around us and jumping in puddles with big smiles! Our Autumn Walk was a real highlight — we spotted colourful leaves, talked about the changes in nature, and learned all about squirrels and how they prepare for winter.

In class, the children have been busy learning their sounds and beginning their phonics journey. Their curiosity and excitement for learning are a joy to see.

We're already looking forward to next term, when we'll be exploring our new topics: 'Starry Night' and 'Winter Wonderland' There's so much more fun and discovery to come!

Thank you for your continued support — it's been a brilliant first term.



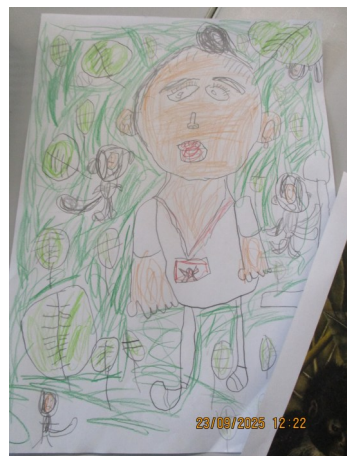
The children in Class 2 have all settled beautifully into Year 1 and 2. There's already a fantastic buzz of enthusiasm around the classroom, and a strong learning ethos is clear to see. Our PRIDE learning values are shining through in all that the children do.

We kicked off the term with a brilliant "Learning to Learn" week, where the children discovered more about how we grow as learners. They especially enjoyed hearing about Mrs Guilder, Mrs Ramsden, and Mrs Watson's childhoods — and then used that inspiration to reflect on and share their own experiences growing up.

This week we have had an exciting trip to the Beaney Museum, which has helped to consolidate all of our work around childhood and change over time.

In Science, our topic has been the human body. The children have loved carrying out investigations to explore and test their senses. These included taste tests and even a fun activity involving beanbags in a bucket to challenge their sense of sight!

We're off to a fantastic start, and we're looking forward to a next term full of curiosity, creativity, and growth.



What a fantastic start to the year in Class 3! All the children have settled in brilliantly and made me very proud, especially on our Stone Age trip to Kent Life. We've been busy bringing our topic to life through active learning—from creating cave paintings under the tables and taste testing Stone Age foods, to working hard place value in maths and writing instructions on how to wash a woolly mammoth!

It has been such a fun and productive term, and we can't wait to continue our journey into the Bronze and Iron Ages in Term 2.

Miss Butcher.



Term 1 in Class 4 has been packed with action, hard work and fun! Years 5 and 6 have dived headfirst into their Ancient Greek topic with highlights being our fantastic workshop day and our brilliant class text, 'Who let the Gods out?'

Science has been focused on forces and we have observed the effects of air resistance on moving objects (and people!). It has certainly been a creative term with some wonderful descriptive, informative and persuasive writing the children have really pushed themselves to produce their best work.

Our paper collage projects in Art have revealed our talent for exploring visual element with different media and children have engaged so maturely with the philosophical discussion posed in our Creation and Science RE topic.

An amazing start to the year, with lots more groovy Greek fun to look forward to after half term!



School News

After-School Library Time—Tuesdays

Dear Parents/Carers

To help support and improve reading at home, we are delighted to invite you and your child to join us in the school library every Tuesday after school from 3:15–4:00pm.

This will be a lovely opportunity for you to:

Spend quality time reading together in school

Explore the wide variety of books available

Use your school library card to borrow books to take home and enjoy.

We hope this will encourage a lifelong love of reading and support your child's progress.

Our first session will be on **Tuesday 28th October at 3:15pm.**

We look forward to welcoming you!

School Photos—Tuesday 28th October

We are pleased to let you know that the photographer will be in school on Tuesday 28th October to do the individual school photos. Please make sure children are in their school uniform on that day, If they normally have PE on a Tuesday they will need to bring their PE kit in to change into.

FOREST SCHOOL

Forest School will continue to run every Friday in Term 2, please see the adjacent schedule.

Children will need appropriate clothing for Forest School, including Waterproof trousers and coat. We have a limited number of waterproof trousers and coats in school but cannot guarantee they will fit your child.

CLASS	WEEK	DATE
Class 4	Week 1	31/10/2025
Class 3	Week 2	07/11/2025
Class 1&2	Week 3	14/11/2025
Class 4	Week 4	21/11/2025
Class 3	Week 5	28/11/2025
Class 1&2	Week 6	05/12/2025
Class 4	Week 7	12/12/2025
Class 3	Week 8	18/12/2025

Forest School Update

Forest School has been brilliant this term—huge thanks to our amazing volunteers for making it all happen! If you're interested in volunteering on Friday afternoons to help children engage with the natural environment, please speak to the school office or to Mr. Sewell, our Forest School practitioner.

This term, the children have been exploring our local area and learning about the wildlife that lives alongside us. We've been on scavenger hunts to identify local animals and birds, built some incredible bug hotels, and even dug into the ground to place food tins for local creatures. The children have also worked together to design and build dens and shelters, using camouflage techniques to hide from imaginary predators—a fantastic way to learn about habitats, teamwork, and survival!



OPAL STAY N PLAY

FRIDAY 7TH NOVEMBER

2:15PM - 3:15PM



**A GREAT CHANCE FOR PARENTS TO COME
AND PLAY WITH THEIR CHILDREN AND SEE
OPAL IN ACTION**



We're now on Instagram!

Scan the QR code to follow us and stay up to date with upcoming events and all the amazing learning your children are doing!

MONKTONCEP